

Year-Round Disturbed Soil Area Protection

Although water pollution control requirements for disturbed soil areas (DSAs) differ between the non-rainy and rainy seasons, the same consideration must be given to meeting requirements year-round. This bulletin provides directions for identifying erosion and sediment control requirements on your project.

Key Consideration

On most construction sites, sediment is water pollution control enemy number one. Regardless of season, protecting DSAs is a key consideration for reducing sediment in site runoff. The Resident Engineer (RE) should ensure that the contractor:

- Does not exceed the DSA limit for the season as specified in the project special provisions, unless otherwise approved by the RE. Typically the maximum DSA in rainy season is two hectares (five acres).
- Protects DSAs with the recommended combination of temporary soil stabilization, linear sediment barriers, and desilting basins for the season and rainfall area designation.

Determine the Rainfall Area Designation

Table 2-1 of the *Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual* defines seven area designations (Areas 1 - 7) based on Caltrans District, county, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdiction and elevation. These seven area designations reflect general rainfall patterns and RWQCB requirements for each area.

Identify the Season

Rainy season dates vary throughout the state. To determine when your project's rainy season begins and ends, refer to Figure 2-1 in the BMPs Manual or the contract special provisions. Non-rainy seasons are those periods outside the rainy season dates. Note that for some areas of the state, there are two rainy season periods (and therefore two non-rainy season periods) each calendar year.

Recommended Combinations

Armed with your Area Designation and rainy season dates, turn to the BMPs Manual to find the recommended combinations of temporary BMPs that apply to your project:

- Table 2-2 lists recommendations for non-active DSAs.
- Table 2-3 lists recommendations for active DSAs.

For Area 7 (at or below 1,200m elevation within the Lahontan or Colorado River Basin RWQCB jurisdiction), there is no defined rainy season or recommended combination of BMPs to protect DSAs unless specified in the contract special provisions. In Area 7, a Notification of Construction (Desert Areas), Form CEM-2004, must be submitted to the appropriate RWQCB at least 30 days prior to the start of construction to allow the RWQCB to identify project-specific requirements for protecting DSAs, if any.

Consider the Slope

For active and non-active DSAs, BMPs are required on slopes greater than 3m in length, unless noted otherwise in the BMPs Manual. Specific BMP combinations vary by slope inclination. For non-active DSAs, the maximum slope length is limited to reduce the erosive effects of storm water flow down slope faces. The RE should ensure that the contractor uses BMPs, such as fiber rolls or gravel bag berms, to break up slope lengths as follows:

- On slope faces 30m or longer with inclinations between 1:20 (V:H) and 1:2 (V:H), place BMPs at intervals no greater than 15m.



This non-active DSA is protected with bonded fiber matrix for soil stabilization and silt fence for a linear sediment barrier. discharge of sediments.



Breaking up slope length using fiber rolls limits the erosive potential of storm water flows down this non-active slope. discharge of sediments.

- On slope faces 15m or longer with inclinations 1: 2 (V: H) or steeper, place BMPs at intervals no greater than 7.5m.

Being Prepared

To ensure that DSAs are adequately protected throughout the year:

- Determine which DSAs are active and non-active.
- Check the plans and current field conditions to be certain of slope lengths and inclinations.
- Monitor the National Weather Service for predicted rain. In some cases, BMPs are required only directly prior to predicted rain.
- Ensure that the contractor maintains sufficient soil stabilizers and linear sediment barrier materials on site for deployment.
- For deployed BMPs, ensure that the contractor complies with the inspection, maintenance and repair program in the project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

